12.00 NOON

Scarcity of water

†856.DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken notice of the report published by world Economic Forum on water;

(b) if so, whether it has sounded of serious warning about scarcity of water;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether it is also a fact that shortage in country's availability of water has been estimated during the past one decade; and

(e) if so, the extent of this shortage and average annual availability of water at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The World Economic Forum has drafted a Report titled " The Bubble is Close to Bursting: A Forecast of the Main Economic and Geopolitical Water Issues Likely to Arise in the World during the Next Two Decades" for discussion at the Forum Annual Meeting 2009. Various challenges related to water including the aspects of scarcity of water in respect of Food and Agriculture, Energy, Trade, National Economic Security, Cities, People without Water and Sanitation, Global Business and The Financial Sector have been highlighted and action point identified in the draft Report. Most of the issues are duly reflected in the National Water Policy and several initiatives have also been taken by respective State Governments and Government of India.

(d) and (e) The availability of the water in the country has been assessed from time to time. The overall annual water availability of India has been assessed as about 1869 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). No decline in the overall annual water availability has been observed in the country.

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(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Reports and Accounts (2007-08) of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi and Related Papers

जल **संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण यादव)**: महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूं:-

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.